

BRUNHILDA AND BODE

By LOUIS C. WARD.

The Old Legend of a Girl's Wild Race with a Giant of the Hartz Mountains Retold for Young Readers

Summertime had come and the woods and fields around Homersburg were green with a new life. School tasks were over for another year and the little cousins had hastened from the hot, dry city out to Grandpa Drew's to spend their vacation. Uncle Frank, too, was there, very dignified and wise-looking, as most young men are who have been to college. We may be very sure, however, that the little folks were not at all afraid of him, for children somehow have a way of seeing through the masks that people wear and getting at the true thoughts of the people about them. And so, as Uncle Frank was really a very goodnatured fellow, the cousins were not at all dismayed by the frown upon his forehead. For this reason, perhaps, one fine evening when they were all sitting on the great stone steps watching the sun go down behind the hills—for this reason, perhaps, Dandelion asked for a story. Before he could tell what kind of a story he wished, Mayblossom cried out:

"Uncle, are all the brave people of old times men? You never tell us about brave girls."

"A very good question," he said. "And it reminds me that one of the very bravest persons I ever heard about was a girl; and you shall have the story whenever you become quiet enough to listen to it."

With this promise on Uncle Frank's part, the circle soon became quiet; and then the story-teller began.

"A long time ago," he said, "northern Europe, and especially the mountains of Germany, was inhabited by a race of giants, terrible because of their immense size and their fierceness. It was said of them that any one of their number, armed only with his club, was more than a match for any army of ordinary people. After their battles with the nations round about they held great feasts, devouring the bodies of the men they had slain in the fight. Thus, with their great strength and their cruel deeds they kept their poor neighbors frightened all the time."

"The king of the giants was called Bode. Huger and fiercer than his subjects, his name itself was enough to make the mountain people tremble. The other giants, too, were afraid of him, but they defended him in battle as well as they were able; for a wise man had once foretold that when the giant king died all his subjects would die also. So we may be certain that whenever Bode went into a battle the other giants fought at least as bravely and as fiercely as he."

Although Bode was such a cruel fellow toward the other giants and all his neighbors, there were two creatures which he always treated kindly and which he loved almost as well as himself. These were his two giant horses, Snowcloud and Thunder. The former was the steed which the giant used in the parades and processions on holidays and after he had won a great victory. It was snowy white and had the brightest glittering eyes that ever shone in a horse's head except, perhaps, in Thunder's. Men who knew about horses often said that Snowcloud could run very swiftly if he had a chance. But Thunder was Bode's favorite battlehorse, and so people knew better what he was able to do. Black as the darkest night, with lightning flashing from his eyes, it is no wonder that he frightened his master's enemies almost as much as the giant himself did. At any rate they were very much afraid of the black steed; but somehow, although Snowcloud was every whit as big and had eyes just as bright, nobody ever feared him.

"On the other side of the mountain from the giant's country," Uncle Frank continued, "there lived a king named Hagen. Of all the kingdoms of Europe none was so far as his. Great levels of waving wheat carpeted the broad valley floor. Beyond the grain fields were green hills upon which flock after flock of sheep were feeding. Further away still, and forming the hazy blue sky line, were the mountains from which the gold and silver and precious stones were brought to the king's castle. Ah! it was a lovely scene, and the liveliest thing in it was the king's beautiful daughter Brunhilda. Stories of her wonderful blue eyes and her marvelous golden hair had been carried to every land by the singers who, at that time, roamed from court to court. That it happened that every day saw a new prince or king at her father's palace, came to demand her in marriage. Some brought vast gifts of gold and silver and fine cloths; some came with armies of slaves to show how wealthy they were. But Brunhilda cared for none of these. The prince of the Hartz mountains brought neither wealth nor slaves; but his manly grace and strength won the heart of the beautiful girl and she promised to be his wife. Thereupon King Hagen dismissed the other suitors, and began to make ready for Brunhilda's wedding. The prince returned into his own country in order to tell his people the good news and to prepare his castle for his bride."

"The day after the prince started for his home, while Brunhilda and her father sat talking in the castle, they heard a heavy, rumbling noise approaching them. King Hagen stepped to the window and trembled from head to foot at what he saw. There, coming down the hillside, riding upon the black horse and leading the white, was the terrible Bode. He seemed to be in a merry mood, for he smiled as he looked about him upon the fields and hills. But there was no merriment for Brunhilda and Hagen, for they could not guess what the giant wished. However, they were soon to learn. In a little while a tremendous knocking at the palace gate showed the near approach of Bode. A few moments later he rode into the yard, so huge that he seemed to fill all the space in front of the castle."

"By this time Hagen had come to the door, very much frightened, but determined to put up a very brave appearance. And so he cried out:

"Good morning, Bode. What can I do for you to-day?"

"Oh, nothing much," replied the giant. 'I have only come to ask you for my beautiful Brunhilda. If she is as lovely as all say, she shall be the bride of no one but me. I intend to take her with me this evening to my castle away back in the mountains. What do you say to that?"

"Why-why, she is already promised to another man, and—"

"Ho! ho! ho!" roared Bode. "Do you think that makes the slightest difference? I tell you that if you make me any trouble I'll call in my friends and you won't have any kingdom after we get through with you."

"Now, my little friends," continued Uncle Frank, "we may be sure that Brunhilda had not gone so far away but that she could hear the loud voice of the giant, and so when her father at last found her she did not wait for him to begin speaking. As soon as he came into the room she

threw her arms around his neck and begged him to save her from the terrible giant. But what could Hagen do? No man could hope to conquer such a huge fellow as Bode. And, besides that, King Hagen had to think of his people, for the giant had promised to destroy the kingdom if he did not get to marry Brunhilda. And so, although the King loved his daughter very much, for the sake of his country and perhaps because he was a little afraid of the giant's anger, he at last told Brunhilda that she would have to marry Bode."

"Very well," she answered. "Since you with all your man's strength and wisdom are afraid of this monster, I shall try what a simple girl can do against him."

Thereupon she went out of the room, leaving her father to tell her in an amazed and angry fashion. She went softly down the stairs, and, suddenly throwing open the door, stood in all her beauty before the eyes of the giant. He was so astonished at her loveliness that he could not say a word, but we may be sure that he was well pleased because his chosen bride was so beautiful. Brunhilda, although she had never before seen a giant, was not much frightened. Smiling at him a little, she said:

"You do me too much honor, my dear Bode, in asking me to be your wife. I am only such a girl as other girls are and not at all fit to be the bride of so great a warrior as yourself. I could not even ride your horse there."

"Wh-why-why," stammered the giant, "what is the difference? You would have to ride a horse, even if you were my wife."

"But I should want to," answered the girl, "and I shall never marry you unless you will promise to teach me first how to ride that white horse. In a month's time I can learn; then shall we get married. Does that please you?" she asked with another smile.

"Yes," Bode answered, "but you must take a lesson every day."

"All right," replied Brunhilda, "and we may as well begin now. Bring the horse up here to the step, so that I can mount him."

"The giant did as he was bid, and the maiden sprang into the saddle as lightly as a bird. Snowcloud reared and pranced a little at having to bear so strange a burden; but the heavy hand and swift voice of Bode soon quieted him. This first day the two rode only once about the castle. After a few days, however, they went further and further away and put their horses to swift and swifter paces. At last, as the end of the month drew near, Brunhilda often challenged Bode to a race, and sometimes won. More often, however, she was beaten, but she did not care, for she had learned how to manage the giant horse."

"The wedding day at last arrived. Long before sunset great crowds of Hagen's subjects gathered in the courtyard to witness the strange marriage and to feast and drink. In the great hall of the castle stood Bode, Hagen and a priest, all waiting for the lovely Brunhilda to come. Suddenly, as they stood there, they heard the neighing of horses; and as they all hastened to the window and looked out, they saw Brunhilda in her white wedding gown and with a golden crown on her head, galloping away on Snowcloud as fast as horse could gallop. The white figure, gleaming in the moonlight, with golden hair streaming to the winds, was a lovely sight. But Bode did not see it. With a frightful oath he clutched his battle-axe, leaped out of the window, sprang on Thunder's back and rode away after the girl."

"Ah! that was a fearful race! All night the two horses strained every nerve. Sparks flew from their flying hoofs as from under the blacksmith's hammer. The rattle of galloping feet upon the hard road was like the crash of thunder, and the panting of the steeds like the blasts of the north wind among the trees of the forest. At last, just as the day dawned, Brunhilda saw almost at her feet a deep chasm. To fall into this seemed certain death. But Bode was just behind. Already she felt the hot breath of the black horse. In despair she struck her steed a sharp blow, and with a mighty spring he landed safe on the other side, leaving the imprint of his great hoof upon the hard rock. At the next moment Bode, too, tried the leap. But Thunder was tired from carrying the great weight of his master; and so it happened that he fell, fell to the very bottom of the chasm and with his master was dashed to pieces. Even to this day the sharp rocks in that depth are pointed out to the traveler as the splintered bones of Bode and his horse, and the chasm itself is called Bode's Death."

"When the morning dawned Brunhilda found herself in the territory of the Prince of the Hartz mountains. She hastened to his palace, where they were married after a few days. Of course, as the giants were now all dead, they lived happily; and no horse in the world was ever more petted than Snowcloud, who had saved his mistress from death, and the kingdom from destruction."

LOUIS C. WARD.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Of what religious denomination is the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Allegheny, Pa.?—S. L. Oakes.

It is un denominational and not controlled by any sect.

What is the meaning of the term "low bridge?"

It is the warning of canal boatmen on approaching a bridge, and means that those on deck should stoop to save their heads. It has spread among landmen, too.

What is meant in chemistry by double decomposition?—J. M. L.

Compound or complicated decomposition. 2. Forty-nine elements are universally

What HE GOT.

Generous Old Man—A poor fellow was sitting at a table in a restaurant and told him to tell you I'd pay for what he got. How much do I owe you?

Proprietor—Fifty cents.

Generous, etc.—What are the items?

Proprietor—Nine beers and a cigar.

classed as metals; tellurium sometimes is taken as a fiftyth.

Has the Twenty-ninth Infantry left San Francisco yet?—Subscriber.

The entire regiment is now in the Philippines.

Did all of the Twelfth Regiment sail from Manila to San Francisco, March 23?—The Grant sailed from Manila March 23, for San Francisco, via Honolulu, with 28 officers and 645 enlisted men of the Twelfth Regiment, and with 83 short-term men and 62 sick.

How many parks are there in the city of Indianapolis? 2. How far is the farthest any one person lives from a park in the city? 3. How great is the area of all the parks combined?—School No. 36.

Not counting street centers there are fifteen. 2. Irvington people live at greatest distance from a park. They are three miles from Brookside. 3. Excluding street centers the total area is about 1,235 acres.

Is the Czar of Russia Queen Alexandra's sister's child, or King Edward's sister's child?—J. M. A.

Neither; his father, Alexander III, married Princess Dagmar, daughter of the present King of Denmark. The present Czar's wife was Princess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt, daughter of Princess Alice of Great Britain, so is a niece of Edward VII.

Who wrote the letters of Junius? You will ease our minds greatly by answering; we can't find out. 2. How should the year 1902 be written in Roman notation?—L. and R.

Their authorship is not known definitely, though a fairly strong chain of circum-

stantial evidence points to Sir Philip Francis as their writer. Many minds besides your own have been disturbed over this question; the attempts to unravel the mystery constitute a considerable literature. 2. MCMII.

How long should a dog be confined that is suspected of being infected by a mad dog? 2. At what age of madness does an affected dog's bite affect another dog? 3. Does a dog that has dew claws ever go mad?—P.

The interval between bite and appearance of rabies has not been definitely determined, but it may exceed six months. So confinement even for that period would not always bring proof. 2. In all stages that are recognizable. 3. Yes; dew claws are not a protection.

Will you outline the causes of the war with Mexico?—J. M.

Texas, which, between 1821 and 1835, had been settled largely from the Southern States, revolted from Mexico in the latter year, and in 1836 declared independence, with the unquestioned intent of joining the United States. Independence being won, Texas applied for admission in 1837, and was admitted in 1845. Texas claimed the territory to the Rio Grande, and Mexico held to the Nueces as the boundary, so, as the United States backed up the Texan claim, war followed annexation.

What is meant by the Julian period? 2. How long did Hierod the Great live after the birth of Christ? 3. Will you print something of the life of Ptolemy Philadelphus?—Anxious.

A period of 7,980 Julian years; the year of the Julian period is found by adding 4,713 to the year A. D. 2 a few weeks. 2. He was Ptolemy II, and reigned peacefully over Egypt from 284 to 246 B. C. This period was marked by extension of trade, by large public works and by stimulation of scholarship. In his reign Manetho compiled his history of Egypt, and the Greek version of the Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, was made, at least, in part.

What can you tell me regarding the piece of ground between the New York store and the building directly east of it? Does it belong to any one, and why is it left vacant? 2. Who wrote the poem beginning, "Laugh and the world laughs with you, weep and you weep alone"?—F. J.

It is a strip of ground the title to which has been in dispute for years, though the Gramlings are said to have an imperfect title. They did not build upon it, however, when they recently improved their property. It may now be regarded as public property belonging to the city. 2. It is claimed both by Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Col. John A. Joyce, with the probabilities decidedly in favor of the former.

Will you print a short history of Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys, called the Bloody? He was born in Derbyshire, North Wales, in 1648, and in 1688 was called to the bar, where he was promoted rapidly. He was knighted in 1677, and six years later became chief justice of the King's Bench. He was a willing tool of the crown, for which he was elevated to the peerage by James II, and made his name a by-word for foul brutality and vindictiveness. During his "bloody assize" 320 were hanged, and it was his boast that he had hanged more traitors than had all his predecessors since the conquest. He supported all the King's despotic measures until the latter's

downfall, when he tried to escape from the country. Caught in the disguise of a sailor, he was sent to the Tower to save him from the mob, and there died four months later. April 18, 1689, his constitution having long been undermined by hard drinking.

The monument to be dedicated in May is called "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument." What body of soldiers and sailors is referred to? Was it, or was it not, erected in memory of those who lost their lives fighting for the Union in the civil war? I never yet could find any one to answer the question.—Sixteenth Indiana Regiment.

The movement to build the monument began with the Grand Army, and a number of thousands of dollars was raised by private subscription. The idea then was to commemorate only the soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion, but later, when the State took the matter up, it was found expedient to enlist the support of certain Democratic members by including the soldiers of the war with Mexico, or, as some expressed it at the time, to commemorate Indiana's war spirit. In carrying out this plan two of the dates near the top of the shaft were originally those covering the Mexican war, but later, when the State took the matter up, it was found expedient to enlist the support of certain Democratic members by including the soldiers of the war with Mexico, or, as some expressed it at the time, to commemorate Indiana's war spirit. 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